

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the Office Action of August 6, 2007, it is first of all appreciated by Applicants that the Examiner (in Paragraph 2) withdrew several rejections that had been earlier made.

Obviousness Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2001-260549 machine translation (hereinafter "JP '549") in view of JP 11-189762 machine translation (hereinafter "JP '762").

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is not obvious to use the cured urethane (meth)acrylate layer of JP '762 instead of the transparent plastic film 2 in JP '549, for the following reasons.

JP '549 discloses a protective adhesive film which comprises a transparent plastic film having directly on one outer surface an adhesive layer which has its outer surface protected by a release sheet, and on the opposite side of the transparent plastic film, a hard coat layer is provided directly thereon.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that JP '549 discloses that the transparent plastic film may be a polyester such as acrylic.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that this indication is erroneous.

JP '549 discloses that "As the transparent plastic film 2, for example, a polyester film such as polyethylene terephthalate; a polyarylate film; an acrylic film; a polycarbonate film; a polyvinylchloride film; and a polyethylene film can be used, and further in view of transparency, flexibility and cost, a polyester film, a polyvinylchloride film and a polyethylene film are preferable [0015]." Accordingly, JP '549 does not disclose an acrylic polyester film.

On the other hand, JP '549 discloses that the effects of the invention are a superior surface hardness and a superior scratch resistance because of the hard coat layer, and further, when an ultraviolet absorbent is mixed in the hard coat layer, the effect of the invention is to suppress change in color of the hard coat layer.

However, JP '549 does not disclose visual definition of image as the effect of the present invention.

Comparative Example 1 described in the present specification discloses the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for protecting a surface wherein the hard coat layer irradiated by ultraviolet ray, the polyethylene terephthalate film, the acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive layer and the release liner are laminated in order.

The Examples of JP '549 are different in the point that the thermosetting hard coat layer is used instead of the hard coat layer irradiated by ultraviolet ray, compared with Comparative Example 1 described in the present specification. However, the thermosetting hard coat layer is similar to the hard coat layer irradiated by ultraviolet ray.

Accordingly, the Examples of JP '549 is almost the same as Comparative Example 1 described in the present specification.

Comparative Example 1 is inferior to the present invention with regard to the bending resistance and visual definition of image.

Thus, in addition to not being prima facie obvious, the present invention is not obvious because it provides unexpectedly superior results.

JP '762 discloses an adhesive sheet substrate comprising a urethane acrylate based composition which is suitable for both energy saving measures and resistance against volatile organic compound [0002].

However, JP '762 does not disclose a hard coat layer. Therefore, JP '762 does not disclose naturally that a hard coat layer is provided on the opposite side of the substrate comprising a urethane acrylate based composition. Further, JP '762 does not disclose visual definition of image as the effect of the present invention. Furthermore, JP '762 does not disclose the effects of JP '549.

JP '549 is different in constitution of the invention and effect of the invention, compared with JP '762.

Accordingly, it is not obvious to combine JP '549 and JP '762, and this is a further reason why the present invention is not prima facie obvious.

With respect to claim 5 of the present invention in particular, a process film is used. JP '549 and JP '762 do not disclose the process film. Therefore, JP '549 and JP '762 do not render obvious present claim 5 for this additional reason.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

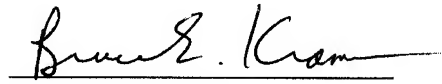
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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